

over your lover to turn it off. Your lover snuggles you closer; that skin-on-skin warmth is a whole lot more inviting than the chilly morning air. Thoughts of work move to the periphery as your bodies come together in a cloud of hands, hips, tongues and hair... In your blissed-out state you roll your eyes dreamily toward the clock. And then, like a hot pepper in chocolate sauce, it hits you: YOU'RE LATE! You toss on your clothes, splash your face, peck your lover on the forehead and run out the door. Yeah, it was worth it, but how are you going to explain this to your boss?

**BEST REASON TO LIVE IN EUGENE: THE PEOPLE**

- 2nd: Nature
- 3rd: The weather

Well it sure as hell ain't the weather, which oddly enough received enough votes to place third. But we think that was a joke. And we're pretty sure this one isn't. People here are nice. As a newcomer to Eugene I chose to write up this category because it reflects my experience, as least so far. My neighbors say hi. My co-workers rock and go out of their way to be helpful. The people at the DMV and even the board of elections are sweet and helpful. And perfect strangers have given me their phone numbers and said, "Hey, you're new to town. Let's go grab a beer sometime." How much nicer could people possibly be?

**BEST RESTAURANTS**

**BEST NEW RESTAURANT: IRAILA**

- 2nd: Zalaya
- 3rd: Laughing Planet

EW talked to Mark Zolun, a co-owner: *Do you think you really deserve to win?* I do, because I think we're offering something a little different and a little homier to people in Eugene. People who eat here feel like they could be in Eugene or transported to a little European town. *What was your worst kitchen disaster?* A continual kitchen disaster is burning bread. It's so treacherous and toxic. Sometimes you just have to pull a little Lucy and scrape off the burnt top. I have to say, we really haven't had anything disastrous — other than burnt bread, and I can deal with that.

**BEST SOUTHEAST ASIAN: CHAO PRA YA**

- (See Best of the Best, p. 16)
- 2nd: Ring of Fire
- 3rd: Mekala's

**BEST RESTAURANT FOR A SOLO MEAL: CAFÉ YUMMI!**

EW talked to Mark Beauchamp, the owner: *Do you think you really deserve to win?* We know that our customers appreciate the portioning we make available with many items. We have meal options for vegans as well for those that prefer a non-vegetarian diet, gluten free, dairy free, etc. Our environment is designed to be comfortable to the diverse group of customers represented in the greater Eugene area. And the café crews at our three locations are simply awesome — we appreciate them so much! Beautiful, delicious, nourishing food served with care in a comfortable environment. That's our goal. *What was your worst kitchen disaster?* A couple years ago our cook was going to use up about 20 pounds of a wide variety of expensive heirloom beans and make a special heirloom bean soup. The first step, of course, is to soak the beans overnight. In the morning the opener saw the soaked bean mix and thought there must be something wrong with our regular black and red beans and dumped out all the soaked heirloom beans. Oh well, better to be on the safe side!

**BEST BAKERY: SWEET LIFE**

- (See Best of the Best p. 17)
- 2nd: Metropol
- 3rd: Eugene City Bakery

**BEST CHINESE: LOTUS GARDEN**

- 2nd: Ocean Sky
  - 3rd: Maple Garden
- Do you think you deserve to win?* Well, I don't know. I think the customers like it... I guess this shows customer support!  
*What was your worst kitchen disaster?* Oh no! [We] never had any problems in the kitchen!

**BEST DELI: CORNUCOPIA**

- (See Best of the Best p. 17)

- 2nd: Broadway Market
- 3rd: Barry's

**BEST ECO-FRIENDLY FOOD: MORNING GLORY**

EW talked to Gail Brown, the owner: *Do you think you really deserve to win?* We try very hard to do this as environmentally-friendly as we can, and we believe in healthy food. *Worst kitchen disaster?* On a busy Sunday during Country Fair, my refrigerator broke. It just quit cooling. The employees moved things all over the place, they worked in total chaos, and they got somebody in to fix it the next day.

**BEST FOOD CART: CART DE FRISCO**

- 2nd: Alexander the falafel guy
- 3rd: Rita's Burritos

EW talked to Eric Bergland, an employee: *Why does Cart De Frisco deserve to win?* Because we have hand-made food made by people who care. There are no chemicals, no ugliness. And it's damn tasty. *If you were an animal or vegetable, what would you be and why?* I would be a cat because they are choosy. I was also a bike messenger in Seattle for seven years and I was hit by cars many, many times — so maybe I do have nine lives.

**BEST ITALIAN: BEPPE & GIANNI'S**

EW talked to Gianni, a co-owner: *Do you think you really deserve to win?* We're the best Italian restaurant in town. We make our own pastas, we have Italian heritage, and we travel to Italy quite often for new menu ideas. *What was your worst kitchen disaster?* On our opening weekend, we overloaded the circuit breaker. It would trip all night and the lights would go off. That happened at least a half a dozen times in the first week. It was kind of a pain in the butt.



Georg Birns, owner of High Priestess BEST PIERCING SHOP

EUGENE BALLET  
CUMMINS  
Toni Pimble, Artistic Director

TONI PIMBLE'S  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream*

Also featuring  
*Slipstream* and  
*Incidents and Accidents*

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SATURDAY, OCT. 23  
AT 8:00 PM  
SUNDAY, OCT. 24  
AT 2:30 PM

SPONSORED BY  
THE HAUGLAND FOUNDATION

Oregon Cultural Trust EMGC & WHPRE

CALL 682-5000 OR ORDER ONLINE ANYTIME: WWW.EUGENEBALLET.ORG

Kiva, P.C. Market of Choice (south), Red Barn Grocery, First Alternative, Sundance Natural Foods, New Frontier Growers Mkt

Now at your local grocery

**Sweet Creek Foods**

Supporting local & regional farmers  
541-935-1615

Locally owned & operated glassery

**Organic**

Pickles, fruit spreads, salsa, albacore Tuna, and more!

**RISE MOON ORGANICS**

WORLD PEACE BEGINS IN THE KITCHEN

RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE • PESTO • RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE • PESTO • RAVIOLI • PASTA SAUCE